



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

2701 Rockcreek Parkway, Suite 106
North Kansas City, Missouri 64116

KANSAS CITY AREA OFFICE
816/374-6166

ECOLOGICAL SERVICES
816/374-5951

CC: CMPL
LEGL

SVAN
ARHM
DRA

RDEV
ARHM

SITE: BIG RIVER MINE
ID: MO2981126899
BREAK: 1/1
OTHER:

CC: CMPL
LEGL

January 7, 1981

RECEIVED

JAN 14 1981

Dr. Kathleen Q. Camin
Regional Administrator, Region 7
Environmental Protection Agency
324 E. 11th Street
Kansas City, Missouri 64106

ENFORCEMENT DIVISION



Dear Dr. Camin:

This is in reference to a hazards water site, an old lead mine tailing, adjacent to the Big River in St. Francois County, Missouri.

We submitted this waste site as an example of a serious continuous pollution problem to our central office (February, 1980) in support of the Superfund legislation. Our objectives in recommending the site was for use in the development of the natural resource provisions of the Superfund Bill and hopefully the ultimate study and correction of the lead mine tailing problem.

Fish (sucker family) in the Big River immediately below the mine tailings have lead concentrations (0.5 ppm) that are higher than the level (0.3 ppm) the World Health Organization has set as the maximum safe lead level in food for adults. The Missouri Department of Conservation and the Missouri Division of Health stated in a news release this summer that "people should be discouraged from eating large quantities of suckers from the Big River in Missouri's lead mining belt". We believe the lead tailing problem is serious enough that it should be considered as a project by Environmental Protection Agency under the Superfund Bill. We are willing to participate in the planning of such a project to the extent our manpower and funds will allow.

We would appreciate your sincere consideration of the lead mine tailing pollution problem as a project under the superfund legislation.

Sincerely,

Bruce Stebbings

Bruce Stebbings
Acting Field Supervisor
Ecological Services

cc: Missouri Dept. of Conservation
Jefferson City, MO
Missouri Dept. of Natural Resources
Jefferson City, MO

40275673



Superfund